

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 03911 261901Z

20

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 EA-07 EUR-12 AGR-05 EB-07

COME-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 /114 W
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R 261540Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9193

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3911

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FAO, GH, AORG, ES, LE, PFOR

SUBJECT: AQUINO CANDIDACY FOR FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL

REF: SAN SALVADOR 3871

1. THIS SUBJECT AROSE IN MY CONVERSATION ON ANOTHER MATTER
SEPT 24 WITH ACTING FONMIN CASTANEDA REPORTED SEPTTEL. CASTANEDA
SHOWED ME A MEMORANDUM WITH FONOFF TALLEY TO DATE OF SUPPORT FOR
AQUINO'S CANDIDACY. THE MEMO LISTED THREE CATEGORIES, AS
FOLLOWS: (A) SPONSORING GOVERNMENTS: 25 (LATIN AMERICAN
AND CARIBBEAN), (B) OFFICIALLY COMMITTED SUPPORT: 5 (SPAIN,
MALAWI, THAILAND, SOUTH KOREA AND BAHAMAS WHICH IS APPLICANT
FOR ADMISSION TO FAO), (C) SYMPATHETICALLY INCLINED:
10 (MISCELLANEOUS ASIAN, AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS).

2. CASTANEDA OFFERED ME EVIDENCE IN THE FORM OF NOTES
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PAGE 02 SAN SA 03911 261901Z

VERBALES FROM ARGENTINE, MEXICAN, BRAZILIAN AND

VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENTS IN WHICH THEY, AS LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS, EXPRESS FIRM SUPPORT FOR AQUINO AS THE "CANDIDATO UNICO" OF LATIN AMERICA AND DESCRIBE ASSISTANCE WHICH THEIR MISSIONS HAVE GIVEN GOES DIGNITARIES WHO HAVE COME TO COUNTRIES WHERE GOES IS NOT DIPLOMATICALLY REPRESENTED TO LOBBY FOR AQUINO. CASTANEDA CLAIMED THAT LATIN AMERICAN BLOC IS SOLIDLY COMMITTED TO SPONSORING AQUINO'S CANDIDACY AND TO SUPPORT HIM WELL BEYOND FIRST BALLOT. IN THIS REGARD, HE SPECIFICALLY CITED COLOMBIA, WHICH HAD BEEN THE LAST LA STATE TO THROW ITS SUPPORT TO AQUINO BECAUSE IT HAD AT ONE TIME THOUGHT OF LAUNCHING ITS OWN CANDIDATE BUT HAS COMPLETELY ABANDONED SUCH AN INTEREST IN THE COMING ELECTION.

3. CASTANEDA SHOWED ME A COPY OF NOTE WHICH LEBANESE PERMANENT REP AT UN ADDRESSED TO NON-ALIGNED ORGANIZATION'S SECRETARIAT ON EVE OF RECENT LIMA NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE PROPOSING THAT EFFORT BE UNDERTAKEN TO PROMOTE ADOPTING OF RESOLUTION AT LIMA CONFERENCE SUPPORTING LEGANESE CANDIDATE SAOUMA FOR FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL. ACCORDING TO CASTANEDA LEBANESE INITIATIVE WAS ABORTED WHEN ARAB BLOC CAUCUSED IN LIMA AND DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO MAKE EFFORT TO GET SUCH RESOLUTION ADPOTED AT THAT CONFERENCE. ARGENTINES AND PERUVIANS WERE PREPARED TO LAUNCH COUNTER OFFENSIVE ON BEHALF OF AQUINO IF LEBANESE HAD PERSISTED BUT THIS WAS NOT NECESSARY. CASTANEDA'S POINT WAS THAT SAOUMA'S RECENT CLAIMS OF WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FROM THIRD WORLD WAS REFUTED AT LIMA WHERE EVEN AN ARAB BLOC INITIATIVE ON HIS BEHALF FAILED TO MATERIALIZE, TO SAY NOTHING OF A NON-ALIGNED ENDORSEMENT.

4. CASTANEDA ALSO CLAIMED THAT SAOUMA WAS ATTEMPTING TO DISCREDIT AQUINO BY SPREADING THE ALLEGATION AMONG THIRD WORLD STATES THAT AQUINO WOULD BECOME AN "INSTRUMENT" OF THE DEVELOPED WESTERN STATES IF HE WERE ELECTED. AT THIS POINT I SUGGESTED THAT A USG DECISION TO SUPPORT AQUINO IN ADVANCE OF THE ELECTION MIGHT BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO HIS CAUSE; BUT CASTANEDA ASSURED ME THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE THE EFFECT. HE BASED THIS ON THE DISCUSSIONS DURING HIS EXTENSIVE TRAVELS WHEREIN SOME OF THE GOVERNMENTS CON-

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN SA 03911 261901Z

SULTED SEEMED TO CONDITION THEIR POSSIBLE SUPPORT FOR AQUINO ON HIS BEING ABLE TO GET THE SUPPORT OF THE USG, CASTANEDA ALSO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN BEING ABLE TO GET SUPPORT FOR AQUINO FROM MOST OF THE EASTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS AFTER THEIR FIRST BALLOT "PRO-FORMA" VOTE FOR THE POLISH CANDIDATE. HE ALSO HOPED THE GHANAIAI CANDIDATE WOULD STAY IN THE RACE UNTIL VOTING TIME TO PRECLUDE AN EARLY SHIFT OF SOME AFRICAN VOTES TO SAOUMA. FINALLY HE AVERRED

THAT THE THIRD WORLD WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED BY THE ARAB STATES' INSATIABLE DRIVE TO DOMINATE THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA. HE BELIEVED THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE RESENTMENT AMONG NON-ARAB LDC'S WHICH WOULD TRANSLATE INTO VOTES FOR AQUINO RATHER THAN SAOUMA.

5. COMMENT: YOU WILL RECALL THAT DURING MY RECENT CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON, U.S. SUPPORT FOR AQUINO AS DIRECTOR OF THE FAO WAS MENTIONED TO ASST. SECT. ROGERS; DEPUTY ASST. SECT. RYAN AS A VERY HIGH PRIORITY ITEM FOR EL SALVADOR AND I DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH WITH DR. MOREY AND MR. BURNS OF I.O. DR. MOREY AGREED, THAT THE DIRECTOR OF FAO WOULD BE ELECTED FROM ONE OF THE LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THAT THE CONTEST WOULD PROBABLY NARROW DOWN TO AQUINO THE CANDIDATE FROM EL SALVADOR AND SAOUMA THE LEBANESE CANDIDATE. I HAVE MET AND TALKED WITH AQUINO AND WAS VERY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH HIM AS AN INDIVIDUAL WITH REAL INTEREST IN THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM. HE HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN THIS FIELD AS WELL AS OTHER SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE IN FINANCE AND AGRICULTURE. DR. AQUINO HAS LIVED FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS IN THE U.S. AND IS ORIENTED TOWARD THE U.S. AS DIRECTOR OF THE FAO HE WOULD BE A REASONABLE MAN FOR THE U.S. TO WORK WITH AND I BELIEVE THAT HE WOULD BE OBJECTIVE IN HIS DECISIONS, AND NOT BE SWAYED BY REGIONAL PRESSURES. U.S. SUPPORT OF AQUINO WOULD HELP TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA WHO SOLIDLY SUPPORT HIM. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HAVE HEARD THAT ONE OF THE LEBANESE STRONG "TALKING POINTS" IS THAT HE DOES NOT HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE U.S.

6. I WAS TOLD THAT DR. HANNAH WAS IN THE U.S. AND I WAS ABLE TO TELEPHONE HIM LATER IN THE DAY. DR. HANNAH TOLD ME THAT HE HAD SUGGESTED HOPPER, BECAUSE HE WAS A COMPETENT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAN SA 03911 261901Z

MAN AND COULD BRING A FRESH APPROACH TO THE FAO. HOWEVER, HE AGREED WITH OUR ANALYSIS THAT THE DIRECTOR WOULD BE ELECTED FROM ONE OF THE LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THAT THE CONTEST WOULD PROBABLY NARROW DOWN TO AQUINO AND SAOUMA. DR. HANNAH KNOWS BOTH MEN, AND HE SAID OF THE TWO AQUINO IS MUCH THE BETTER MAN AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND AS AN ADMINISTRATOR, AND IN ADDITION IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER FOR THE U.S. TO WORK WITH HIM AS DIRECTOR OF THE FAO.

7. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE U.S. TO DECIDE WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY TO SUPPORT AQUINO AND TO SO INFORM THE GOES. THIS WOULD ALLOW EL SALVADOR TO RALLY THE SUPPORT OF OTHER COUNTRIES FOR THIS CANDIDATE AND HOPEFULLY SECURE HIS ELECTION. THE

U.S. WOULD CERTAINLY IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH EL SALVADOR
AND ADDITIONALLY IDENTIFY ITSELF WITH ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS
OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE REGIONAL GROUPING ON THIS
CANDIDACY WHICH THEY SUPPORT SOLIDLY. WE WOULD BE ASSURING
ABLE LEADERSHIP OF AN INCREASING IMPORTANT PROGRAM, WITH
AQUINO AND THE INCUMBENT A U.S. DEPUTY DIRECTOR AT THE
HELM. IF WE DELAY UNTIL THE TIME OF THE ELECTION, WE MAY
WELL LOSE ALL OF THESE BENEFITS.
CAMPBELL

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